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Self-government
September 17, 1890.



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farmer

HND

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OUR 27TH YEAR.

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BALTIMORE, MD.



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"I was a great sufferer from a low condition of the blood and general debility, becoming, finally, so reduced that I was unfit for work. Nothing that I did for the complaint helped me so much as Ayer's Sarsaparilla, a few bottles of which restored me to health and strength. I take every opportunity to recommend this medicine in similar cases."—C. Evick, 14 E. Main st., Chillicothe, Ohio.

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Agriculture, Horticulture, Live Stock and Rural Economy,

THE OLDEST AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN MARYLAND, AND FOR TEN YEARS THE ONLY ONE.

AND NEW FARM.

Vol. XXVII. BALTIMORE, September 17, 1890. No. 38.

For the Maryland Farmer.

OUR NEW FARM, XII.

CULTIVATING CROPS.

We found Old Roan to be a treasure. He was so large that it seemed but little exertion for him to plow our light soil, and when before the cultivator he walked along as if he was not at work at all. But he had one great fault—his walk was slow. To be sure this was good on my account, for it gave me time to learn all about the handling of the plow and cultivator as he plodded along. Still I like to have a horse walk naturally at a fast pace and I determined that if I ever bought any horses, I would not try them to see how fast they would trot; but how fast they would naturally walk!

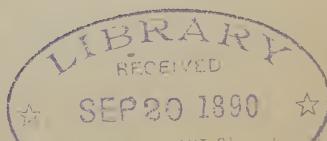
Old Roan was a fast traveller on the road. He would cover a great many miles

in the course of a day; or, he would travel a given number of miles in a very short time; but whenever he dropped to a walk, he was slow comparatively. He had not been properly taught. Taken when young, horses can be taught to step out with a quick, smart gait when walking, and it is a mistake ever to allow them to move at a snail's pace.

Our sweet corn had broken ground finely, and my first direction to Charley was, to go through the corn and wherever he found two sprouted together to carefully pull up the feeblest one. Then after a moment's thought I said:

"No, Charley; before you do that we will run the cultivator between the rows and clean out all the weeds. Then if, by chance, any of the corn is injured, we will have two chances instead of one to save it."

After the cultivator had been used



thoroughly, I had Charley take his hoe and clean out the rows and at the same time thin the corn as before mentioned.

Where he found any hill with none sprouted I told him to take up a spare plant and transplant it. And as an experiment I marked some of these transplanted hills. They did fully as well as the others, although almost everyone assured me they would not succeed at all. I am now satisfied that corn if carefully transplanted will do well.

I told Charley, that I wanted him to cultivate this sweet corn, whenever he had nothing else to do, whether any weeds appeared in it or not. I put it into his ear that I wanted to astonish my neighbors with this patch. He entered heartily into this proposition, and I had no occasion to say anything more about cultivating that sweet corn.

One day Mr. Hutchens was passing with his team and he stopped, with the remark:

"I say, Mr. Green, what have you put on that corn to make it grow so? It is out-doing anything in this neighborhood."

I answered:

"Oh, nothing, Mr. Hutchens, but a little bit of Charley and Old Roan."

He laughed at that and drove on. Charley was standing by me, and he laughed loudly with his "ha! ha! ha!" and was so pleased that he said:

"Mr. Hutchens didn't believe you, Mr. Green—ha! ha! ha! I never know'd that cultivatin' would do so much for corn, befo'—ha! ha! ha!"

Then I said to Charley:

"A great many suppose that corn need not be cultivated so long as no weeds appear in it, and then they plow it deep and make hard work of it. But the ground for corn needs to be kept very loose all the time on the surface, and not plowed deep. If you have a horse as careful not to trample the corn as Old

Roan is, the oftener you can go through it the better. There is no danger of working it too much. The stirring of the ground is better than an extra fertilizer."

You see I was training Charley to my notions and he readily learned as he saw the results as pointed out by such men as Mr. Hutchens.

My motto was: Keep the plow and cultivator moving. I gave Charley this standing order: Whenever I have not told you what to do, and you don't know of anything which must be done, go to work with the plow or cultivator.

Before that patch of sweet corn got too large for the horse to work, I think Charley had cultivated it as many as ten times; and it was indeed a beautiful crop. The ears filled out properly, and the birds had no chance to interfere with it, and when from time to time it was sent to market, it brought the very best prices. Early in the season I got 18c. a dozen for that corn, later 15c. and never less than 9c. for all I could supply.

Those two acres of sweet corn brought me the snug sum of \$186.45, and it settled in my mind that it was a good market crop. Besides, I labored under the difficulty of not selling it at retail in person; but sent it to a dealer who allowed me what he called the best wholesale prices. The retail prices for such corn as mine ranged from 15c. to 25c. a dozen; and at these prices would have brought me almost twice what I got for it.

This was a great temptation for fault finding and discontent; but I steadfastly resolved not to be led into these things. I made up my mind to keep myself posted from the papers, and to have my wits about me to make use of opportunities in the future, and to keep always in a calm, good humored state of mind. So this thing I did.

The days went by so fast that I didn't

get in any strawberry plants among my currant bushes; but I cultivated them well and run two rows of turnips a foot apart between them. This left me plenty of room for the cultivator and gave me an abundance of turnips. I seeded these turnips in rows because I thought that was the right way, and although I afterward learned they were generally sowed broadcast, I was so well satisfied that I have used a seed sower ever since whenever I raised turnips. As my earliest sweet corn was cleared off, late in July, I had Charley run over the land with his cultivator, and put in turnips there using on the land my last bag of ground bone, and seeding in rows two feet apart. They look so much better and do so much better and give a chance to keep the weeds down.

Turnips sown broadcast allow too many weeds to grow, and no matter how late weeds start they always manage to scatter seeds for future trouble. You see, I am writing this after five summer's experience and so I give you the benefit of it in these remarks. But the first year I sowed them in rows, because no one told me to save time and work by scattering them broadcast.

Among my tomatoes, I had a good many Acme plants, and although they were beautiful and productive, and I cultivated them to the best of my knowledge, a black, dry rot would attack many of them on the blossom end. I did my best to prevent it, but did not succeed. On inquiry I found my neighbors suffered in the same way and we concluded we would choose some other kind next year.

In addition to this my tomato plants were attacked by large green worms which I discovered in the very beginning of their work, and a few visits with a tin bucket, and a paddle to knock them into it, put an end to that trouble.

I did not allow my field corn to be neg-

lected. I had chosen what was called, I think, the Leaming corn, or some such name. I had planted it in rows, the same as sweet corn was planted, but a little further apart in the rows, from two feet to two and a half feet, and left only one stalk in a place. I don't know how often this was cultivated; but I think Charley did not neglect it; although on account of lack of fertilizer it did not do as well as I could have wished. Yet after I had taken what I needed for my own use the ten acres turned me a nice little sum toward my expenses. Corn during that year brought me fifty-five cents a bushel and I sold two hundred and forty-three bushels.

My oat crop was hardly what I hoped for and I cut it before it had dried and fed it to Old Roan without threshing it.

I cultivated my sweet potatoes with a great deal of care, using a garden plow, always towards the row, and taking out most of the larger weeds by hand. I followed the good old plan, also, of lifting the vines every few days, although I didn't pile them up as I saw many do—I just lifted them so as to break up their rooting propensity.

My Irish potatoes proved a good crop; but late of course, as they did not get an early start. The potatoe beetles were a great pest; but my tin bucket and paddle used early every morning, kept them very fairly in check. I don't believe in using arsenic of any kind around my food, so I had made up my mind, if the paddle and bucket wouldn't save my potatoes, to let them go. I don't believe it pays to use arsenic, for the risk is something and the gain in time and crop does not offset it.

I had many more than we could use in our small family and sold them to the store at the depot, as the family wished to trade there some, and I thought it good policy to do so; especially as we found

most of the little items were sold there as cheaply as in the city.

(*To be continued next week.*)

THE WAY WIDENING FOR WOMEN.

There are 3000 medical women in the United States whose incomes range from \$5000 to \$20,000 a year. The number is increasing every year, and the supply of "lady doctors" bids fair to be as great as that of the male physicians. Austria is the only civilized country in the world which prohibits women from entering the medical profession. Russia and China permit them and the queens of Italy and Roumania employ women physicians.

CALIFORNIA ON WHEELS.

By the grace of Mr. S. J. Mathes, of Los Angeles, Cal., we were favored with a complete exposition of the very remarkable fruits and other productions of the various counties of California, now to be seen in this city. He also gave us numerous statistics which we would be pleased to have our readers hear from his own lips.

Those relating to Grapes, Raisins, Figs and Prunes were encouraging indeed; and when he spoke of one farmer raising 90 varieties of Almonds, we were surprised at the great number of distinct species. We also learned for the first time that 50,000 acres are already devoted to Olives.

The mammoth fruits and vegetables of which we have heard and read so much had great attraction; but hardly more than did some other productions of which small specimens were exhibited. The Red wood in polished, varnished and plain

surface was interesting, as also the Gold quartz and the Graphite specimens.

Perhaps the most important item of promise is the Ramie there exhibited. It occupies no space at present; but we think it is destined in the future to almost revolutionize the finer fabrics for dresses.

The presence of Mr. Mathes and the pleasant explanations he gives of the climate and productions and the opportunities for those who would find a home in that golden country, where all the luxuries of fruit in their perfection are to be raised in abundance, will have a great influence in determining many to emigrate to that favored land.

For the Maryland Farmer.

POLITICAL BUNCOMBE.

A great deal of capital is manufactured by political demagogues to justify their purchase of votes by pensions. Their cry is: No matter how much is given to old soldiers and their families, we can never pay them for their risks and their patriotism. The changes are continually sung on this line. What are the facts?

Did they do any more than their duty?

When drafted, were they any more anxious to go than those who staid at home?

Has the country no claims on its citizens in time of trouble, that as soon as the trouble passes, it must make paupers of them?

Must the country be burdened with hundreds of millions of dollars annually, because the soldiers unwillingly went to the war, under the force of the draft and backed by officers who would arrest and punish them if they failed to go?

This talk of noble patriotism, and all that, is generally nothing more than "political buncombe". It is a pretext of sharpers to extort greater taxes from the

farmers and fatten themselves on their distribution.

Doubtless, there were exhibitions of patriotism; but that patriotism is not visible in those who clamor at the door of congress for more "pap," whenever the remotest chance of getting more is suggested to them.

Political parties should be of no account to the farmers until the great evil is abated by them.

HIS TOUCH THAT DID IT.

Few men in this generation had such influence over the criminals of London as the late Earl of Shaftsbury. He always labored in hope. One man went to him after his release from prison to seek his counsel. Years afterward, when redeemed to God and humanity, he was asked when his reformation began. "With my talk with the earl," he replied. "What did the earl say?" "It was not so much any thing he said; but he took my hand in his, and said, 'Jack, we'll make a man out of you yet.' It was his *touch* that did it."

MARYLAND FAIRS.

When held, and address of Secretary.

Cecil Co., Elkton, Oct. 7—10.
John Partridge, Sec'y., Elkton, Md.

Frederick Co., Frederick, Oct. 14—17.
Geo. W. Cramer, Sec'y., Frederick, Md.

Talbot Co., Easton, Sept. 23—26.

Washington Co. Hagerstown, Oct 14—17.
P. A. Witmer, Sec'y., Hagerstown, Md.

Maryland State
combined with } Bel Air, Sep. 30—Oct. 3.
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James W. McNabb, Sec'y., Bel Air Md.

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THE NEW EDUCATION.

We wish to place our position in reference to the additional government appropriation to Agricultural Colleges, plainly before our readers. We are utterly and completely opposed to having these appropriations made to sustain professors in literary and classical colleges. We do not oppose these colleges in themselves: but we do oppose their taking a single cent of the funds intended for the Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges.

In reading the act of Congress making these appropriations, we understand that the educational institutions are for the people, farmers and mechanics, who are to be admitted with whatever degree of education they at present possess, and who shall be taught practically farming and mechanics

FOR DYSPEPSIA

Use Brown's Iron Bitters.

Physicians recommend it.

All dealers keep it, \$1.00 per bottle. Genuine
has trade-mark and crossed red lines on wrapper.

including the English language and whatever scientific knowledge is necessary to equip them for their life work.

We understand the object of these educational institutes to be to make thorough farmers and mechanics; and we cannot enough deprecate any teaching which will neutralize this work, or which will make this work a merely secondary one to the purely professional or classical teaching of ordinary colleges.

We go so far in this direction, that we would call upon the Trustees of the Agricultural College of this State to dispense with all professors not connected directly with agricultural and mechanical pursuits and to inaugurate practical agriculture and mechanics in place of classical and literary teachings.

We believe this is the proper thing to be done now. The funds will be ample to inaugurate and sustain the college from the present moment. \$31,000 is now due of this last appropriation in addition to the \$7000 from the former land appropriation, the \$15,000 of the Experiment Station appropriation, and the \$6000 annually of the State appropriation.

With all this, we cannot see any need of having the agricultural education a mere side issue to the classical culture as it has been in the past. It should be first and foremost and exclusively agricultural and mechanical. Let those who wish a classical course go elsewhere, and let this college train young men and young women for the farm and the workshop as the most honorable spheres of human pursuit within the reach of humanity.

As things are too often conducted at present, here and wherever literary institutions have controlled these government appropriations, farmers sons are warped by sneers and ridicule until they leave college with a bias opposed to the grand

occupation their fathers supposed they were to be taught.

We wish to repeat: We are opposed to a single cent designed for agricultural and mechanical colleges being diverted to classical institutions; and we are opposed to the union of the two in the same College, because of the bad influence exerted by classical professors and students.

If it is impossible to have the change we advocate the establishment of colleges wholly independent of present classical institutions; and as long as we have charge of an Agricultural Journal we shall use what influence we possess in favor of this end.

In the absence of the Legislature, the Governor of the State has this new fund in charge, and we call upon him to express the desire of the farmers of our State for a strictly Agricultural and Mechanical College as contemplated by the Act.

We advise farmers in every part of the State to get up petitions and forward to the Governor asking him to use his influence with the Trustees of the present Agricultural College to have this institution conform to this idea. Eliminate from it the purely classical characteristics. The following is a good form of petition for this object:

To the Hon. E. E. JACKSON,
Governor of Maryland:

We the undersigned respectfully petition that the recent appropriation of the government for education in Agriculture and Mechanics be bestowed upon the Maryland Agricultural College with this condition: that the board of Trustees devote the said College wholly and without reserve to practical education in Agriculture and Mechanics omitting from its curriculum the classical course of instruction.

"Our New Farm," is interesting reading

YOUR PRODUCE.

Take care of your corn and oats especially. The prospect, according to the Agricultural Department statistics, is for a short crop. The prices which have been gradually rising will in all likelihood continue to advance. It will not be possible to realize very high prices for produce, because there is no extensive outlet for it. The Chinese wall which bad government throws around us prevents all hopes of that for the present; but the shortage will be sufficient to better the prices somewhat, and will justify the eastern farmer in watching the markets closely and in not being too anxious to sell.

EXPERIMENT STATION REPORT.

Bulletin No. 9, of the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station treats of Strawberries and is interesting for all who grow that delicious fruit, or who propose to grow it in the years to come. While the quoted reports therein of Messrs. Gulick and Allen will have their usefulness and due weight, the great majority of farmers prefer the authoritative experiments of the station as their guide. They want results from close examination and official inspection, and the actual data given in plain language. The papers all over the country are full of reports from individuals who grow berries and have the plants for sale and who are in general terms "reliable;" but the Stations are felt to have a reliability of a different character and the people prefer to have these experiments unmixed, undiluted with the others.

Neuralgic Persons

And those troubled with nervousness resulting from care or overwork will be relieved by taking

Brown's Iron Bitters. Genuine has trade mark and crossed red lines on wrapper.

SPRING CHICKS.

Those who propose to go into the raising of spring chickens for market should begin to make their arrangements now. It is a most profitable occupation; but must be arranged for, methodically. Settle first upon which of the many good incubators you will obtain—you can learn this from our last spring poultry number, which will be sent you for five cents. Then prepare a suitable room, shed, cellar, or building, into which your incubator may be placed. Provide your warm brooder room, also; for your success will depend upon having a comfortable place for the chicks after they are hatched, fully as much as upon hatching them. You should have everything ready by the first of November and then commence the work.

It is astonishing how soon the whole conscience begins to unravel, if a single stitch drops; one little sin indulged makes a hole you could put your head through.

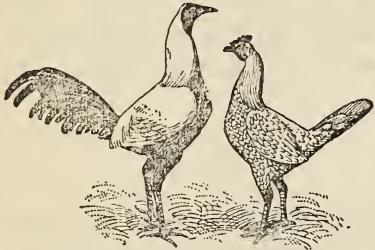


length required. For free pamphlet showing "Why Ensilage Pays," and for free descriptive and illustrated catalogue of the best Tread-powers, Lever-powers, Threshers, Clover-hoppers, Wood Saw-machines, Feed-mills and Grinding-mills, send to the old and reliable Empire Agricultural Works, over 30 years under same management.

MINARD HARDER, Proprietor, Cobleskill, N. Y.

**A Brief But Comprehensive Summary
of the Merits and Demerits of Game
Fowls Which Have a Record as Old
as the Oldest Written History.**

No variety of fowl has been more enthusiastically cultivated by fanciers and country gentlemen of leisure than the game, although farmers, as a rule, have little or nothing to do with game fowls. The origin and nationality of the game fowl must remain a disputed question, inasmuch as its record is as old as the oldest written history. The game cock is designated by Wright as the undisputed king of all poultry, and requiring more careful judging in regard to shape than any other bird. There are four recognized breeds—namely, game, game bantam, Sumatra game, and Malay. The varieties are legion, there being sixteen distinct sorts recognized by the American standard.



SILVER DUCKWING GAMES.

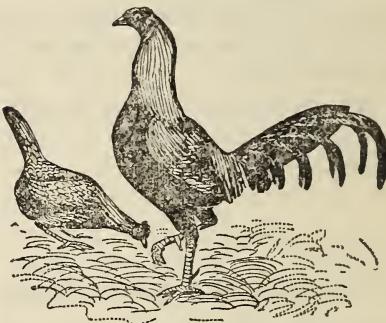
The games are all attractive in appearance, the duckwing being perhaps the most beautiful. It is characterized by exceedingly graceful form and dignified carriage and brilliantly colored plumage. The silver duckwings are purer in blood than the yellow duckwings, and are white skinned when of pure breed. The best layers, according to Wright, are the black breasted reds, with yellow legs, and the red Cheshire piles, with white legs. The worst layers are the grays. With the exception of these latter game fowls, as a rule, lay remarkably well, averaging from 200 to 250 eggs per annum.

The merits of game fowls are many and various. They rank, as already stated, in the very first class as layers, providing they have good runs. They are also the best of table fowls as regards quality and flavor of flesh. Indeed, for delicacy of flavor their flesh is beyond comparison. They do not require to be fattened and they eat comparatively little. As mothers the hens are not to be

At This Office.

50 Cents.

equaled. There are of course drawbacks. The size of both birds and eggs is small, and in confinement the game hen will by no means lay so well as the Brahma, Hamburgs and many other varieties. Their quarrelsome disposition is also against them. Games cannot therefore be classed among breeds profitable for the average poultry keeper. They will, however, afford much pleasure to amateurs and others who can give their fowls ample range, being beautiful to look at and providing a constant and abundant supply of delicious eggs and delicately flavored meat.



BLACK BREASTED RED GAMES.

As our readers already know games are largely bred for the pit, and at poultry shows carry off the lion's share of premiums. The best criterion of blood in all game fowls, according to Wright, is the color of the eyes. Black eyes show dark blood, and the hens of such strain lay white eggs. Red eyes show red blood, and the hens lay pinkish eggs. Yellow eyes are inferior in spirit to the others. The sorts most used for fighting are those with black or red eyes, such as the brown breasted reds, dark grays, black breasted reds and red piles.

Seeding Winter Wheat.

American Cultivator gives advice as follows in regard to seeding winter wheat:

The time for wheat sowing should be carefully considered. Most farmers are too much hurried, thinking that a large growth is what is mainly needed to enable the plant to withstand the winter and spring freezing and thawing. A heavy top for wheat is all right, provided it is grown under the proper conditions of cool and moist air and soil. Wheat is not a hot weather plant. It loves moisture, especially in early stages of its

growth. Seed sown while the soil is parched with summer heats cannot make the right kind of growth to stand the winter. It is better to wait until October for the rain than to sow in a dry time earlier than this.

In dry soil the seed is sure to be covered too deeply, and the plant will lose part of its vigor before the germ reaches the surface. If hot weather follows, as it is apt to do with very early sowing, the wheat spires upward and the root grows downward. What is wanted is cool, wet weather to beat the leaves back to the soil as soon as they come above it. This causes the plant to spread horizontally, and the roots naturally grow in the same direction. Another most important point in wheat seeding is to keep manure as much as possible near the surface or on it.

Fertilizing Pasture Lands.

Good stable manure, well distributed, is the best fertilizer for pasture lands. If an artificial fertilizer is used it is best applied when seeding to grass. When naturally fertile enough to yield a good crop of grass, land will not only maintain its fertility under pasturage, but, especially when pastured by sheep, will gradually improve.

How to Take Off a Horse's Shoe.

When a shoe is to be taken off it must not be violently wrenched at the risk of splitting off a large piece of hoof with it. Let the clinched end of each nail be first turned back. Then the shoe may be carefully raised with the pincers far enough to withdraw the nails, so that their heads may be taken hold of by the pincers and each nail separately drawn out. The nails may also be drawn out one at a time, so as not to alter the position of the tip of the shoe, and a fast nail made to exactly fit the countersink in the shoe, and to pass through the same hole in the hoof, may be driven in its place.—Southern Cultivator.

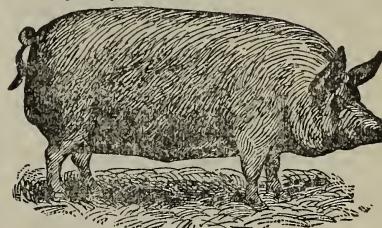
Wood Ashes.

While unleached wood ashes furnish a first class fertilizer for many crops, it ought to be borne in mind that ashes are not a complete manure, being wanting in the nitrogenous element of plant food. A good supplement to unleached ashes is raw bone flour, being strong in phosphoric acid, in which ashes are weak, and furnishing nitrogen of which ashes are destitute.

The Maryland Farmer Purchasing Agency has experts in every department of purchasing—send to them.

Tamworth Swine.

English breeders have for some years past been giving increased attention to the Tamworth breed, in the belief that this variety of pig is unequaled for the production of lean meat. While the Tamworth hogs produce good saleable bacon, other pure breeds, taking them collectively, produce too much fat for the majority of consumers.



A PRIZE WINNER.

As the Tamworth has been adopted by some of our breeders with good results, we here present the picture of Tamworth Dick, a prize winner of the English Royal Show.

When you have to drive your horse a long distance, begin quietly and let him work gradually into his pace, and when nearing home, or the end of your drive, slack up and let your horse take it easy for two or three miles or more, that he may come in cool and avoid some of the dangers of catching cold.

News and Notes.

Thousands of cattle have died this season for lack of grass and water in Arizona, New Mexico and portions of Colorado, where a prolonged drought has occurred.

One of the cheapest and best made fountains is an ordinary flower pot reversed into a glazed saucer. Fit a cork into the hole of the pot, fill it with water and reverse it.

The condition of the corn crop is lowest in the eastern part of the Ohio valley and relatively high in the corn states further west.

There is to be a competitive exhibit of semi-tropical fruits at the World's fair between California and Florida.

From Emporia, Kan., come reports of a mammoth procession of farmers' organizations headed by the Farmers' Alliance, in which some 20,000 persons joined.

THE CURIOSITY SHOP.

A Collection of Fugitive Facts and Out-of-the-Ordinary Information.

As is the case in regard to many other things, it is claimed that we owe the invention of visiting cards to the Chinese. So long ago as the period of the Tong dynasty (618-907) visiting cards were known to be in use in China, and that is also the date of the introduction of the "red silken cords" which figure so conspicuously on the engagement cards of that country. From ancient times to the present day the Chinese have observed the strictest ceremony with regard to the paying of visits. The cards which they use for this purpose are large and of a bright red color.

When a Chinaman desires to marry his parents intimate that fact to a professional "match maker," who thereupon runs through a list of her visiting acquaintances and selects one whom she considers a fitting bride for the young man, and then she calls upon the young woman's parents, armed with the bridegroom's card, on which are inscribed his ancestral name and the eight symbols which denote the day of his birth. If the answer is an acceptance of his suit the bride's card is sent in return, and should the oracles prophesy good concerning the union the particulars of the engagement are written on two large cards tied together with the red cords.

A Walk Around Europe.

Two enthusiastic pedestrians, both Londoners, according to The Pall Mall Budget, recently completed the remarkable performance of journeying around Europe on foot—a task upon which they were engaged close upon twelve months. They left London, journeying on foot to Dover, where they crossed the channel to Calais. This, with the exception of crossing the Baltic, was the only occasion on which they performed any portion of their journey otherwise than on foot. They did not touch Paris, but proceeded from Calais to Abbeville and Dieppe, and then on, skirting the coast line as far as Brest, Nantes and Bordeaux.

Hence they proceeded through the provinces of the Lower Charente across the Pyrenees into Spain, going into Portugal as far south as Lisbon and Oporto, and then right across country to Madrid and Barcelona. Skirting the Mediterranean, they reached Trieste and Venice, and then getting into Austria they went on to Cracow, and across Russian Poland to Moscow and St. Petersburg. From the Russian capital they went to Riga, where they crossed the Baltic to Norway and Sweden, returning through Germany and Holland to Belgium, and then on to Ostend and across the channel again to Dover, reaching London none the worse for their exceptionally long walk.

Send us the Names and Post Office address of all your friends so we can send them sample copies.

Alfalfa.

Alfalfa is a perennial plant, in many respects resembling clover. It has long been known in Europe, and its most extensive cultivation in this country is in California and some of the western and southern states. It seems especially adapted to dry climates, and succeeds best on a light sandy or loam soil with a subsoil through which its long top roots can penetrate and find their way to moisture. It has been grown successfully at the Geneva station in New York, but in experiments on farms in different parts of Vermont has been largely winter killed. It will not thrive among weeds, but must have clean land the first year. In reply to inquiries that have been made no better answer can be given than a brief statement of some of its bad and good points as discovered at different state stations throughout the country and summarized by the central office at Washington.

Among its disadvantages it has been found less hardy than clover and not so easily established. If allowed to grow too long the stalks become hard and woody. Cattle cannot be safely pastured on it except in dry regions. It requires peculiar treatment to make good hay. Its good qualities are that when once well established it lasts for years. It withstands drought well, grows rapidly and may be cut early and will furnish several crops of green fodder each season. If properly cured it makes good hay and is relished by all farm animals. In brief, while valuable as a feeding stuff and as a fertilizing crop, it requires peculiar conditions of climate and soil for its growth and careful culture and curing to make it a profitable crop.

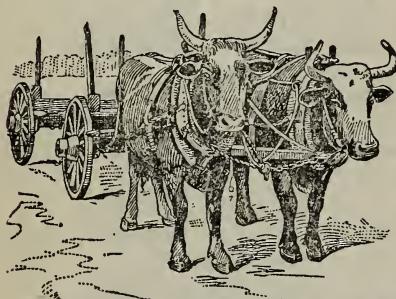
The Stool Versus the Mat System.

On the trial grounds of the Experiment station at Geneva, N. Y., were planted for testing two rows of each variety of strawberries, one grown in the stool system, the other allowed to mat to the width of two feet, twelve plants in each row, the rows three feet apart. Experience in past years has been the largest individual fruits from the plants in the stool row, and the largest yield of marketable fruit from the matted row. This year the matted rows gave both the largest yield and the largest berries, and in addition bloomed and fruited from three to five days in advance of the stool rows.

Ox Teams at Home and Abroad—Collar and Harness for Cattle Substituted for the Old Fashioned Heavy Yoke—Oxen Trained to Trot.

The idea of trotting oxen may seem ridiculous to those who regard the toiling ox as emblematic of slow and laborious movement. Oxen can be trained to walk and even trot at a fair pace. Active Devon steers will walk further than a span of horses under favorable circumstances. Rural New Yorker thinks it is evident that oxen are more comfortable, more easily guided and freer to walk and trot in collar and traces than when carrying a heavy yoke on their necks.

There has been a great deal of discussion among mechanics as to the point of the body from which the ox can draw the heaviest load. The horse draws from his shoulders or breast, while with the usual yoke the ox must draw from the neck. In parts of Brazil, where almost all the carrying trade must be done with ox teams, animals have been bred for thick necks and straight shoulders, that they may do full service at the yoke. With such oxen the yoke may be most suitable, but for the animals usually worked it would seem that some more desirable harness might be found.



COLLAR AND HARNESS FOR OXEN.

The Germans for a long time fastened the traces directly to the horns of the oxen. Many of them still have a stout strap bound around the base of the horns, to which the traces are fastened. A Long Island farmer has invented an improvement on the German method. In this the ox draws from the forehead, a padded band fitting around the head first above the eyes. The authority quoted thinks that many oxen that are worked in heavy yokes waste a portion of their strength because their necks are too light to stand the full weight of their bodies, and their shoulders are not

straight enough to properly fit into the bow. These oxen would do better work in the harness shown in the cut and photographed by a New Jersey correspondent for *Rural New Yorker*. These oxen, it is claimed, have become perfectly familiar with this harness, and work as contentedly in it as they ever did in the yoke. No experiments have been made to determine whether they can haul a heavier load with the collars and traces, but it is believed that there is little difference in this respect.

Selection of Bee Hives.

Begin with thoroughly and accurately made hives. Examine, so far as practicable, all the standard hives on the market before you decide on the kind you will have. This is important for two reasons. First, all hives in the same apiary ought to be precisely alike, so that all parts are interchangeable. Second, a change in hives, after one is once engaged in apiculture, involves much time, labor and expense.

The old box hives have long since been abandoned by intelligent apiarists for the movable comb hives, of which there are two types. One consists of a box, in which hang the frames which hold the combs. The adjacent frames are so far separated that the combs, which just fill them, shall be the proper distance apart. In the other kind the ends of the frames are wider than the comb, and when in position are close together, and of themselves form two sides of a box. Most, if not all, the standard hives in present use represent one or the other of these types.

The main feature of the hive should be simplicity, which excludes drawers and traps of various kinds. It ought also to be made of good pine or white-wood lumber, thoroughly seasoned. The movable comb hive was invented by Langstroth about 1850. The "Langstroth," with its various improvements, is well known today throughout the entire country. The "Simplicity Langstroth" hive and the "Heddon Langstroth" are very favorably known. The latter is a favorite with Professor A. J. Cook, who does not hesitate to recommend it to others. Mr. A. I. Root is a champion for the "Simplicity Langstroth." The Heddon hive combines in principle the Langstroth and the old "Huber." The "Quiniby" still finds admirers, and is preferred by the Heatherington Brothers.

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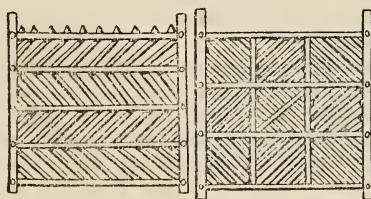
Models of Fancy Gates for the Benefit of Readers Who May Be Contemplating the Luxury of an Ornamental Fence About Their Lawns or Gardens.

Serviceable farm gates, gates desirable for their durability, cheapness and the ease with which they may be constructed, have often been described, but one seldom sees either illustration or description of fancy gates suitable to finish off an ornamental fence. A DECORATIVE GATE.

In the accompanying cuts are shown three models of gates that any carpenter can make, and which may be appropriately used with almost any style of picket, rustic or ornamental barb wire fence.

A convenient size for these gates is three feet six or eight inches wide. The space between the posts for an ordinary door yard gate may be three feet ten inches. This is, however, a matter to be decided by circumstances and the use to which the gate is to be put.

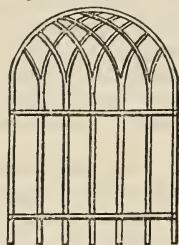
A wide gate is more convenient than a narrow one, especially when there is occasion to pass in and out with any wheeled vehicle, as a baby carriage or wheelbarrow. The designs here given are susceptible to various modifications



CHEAP FANCY GATES.

and changes that may be required to suit the special style of fence with which the gate is to be used. These fancy gates are best made of strong, light wood.

Do not light a sick room at night by means of a jet of gas or a kerosene lamp burning low. Nothing impoverishes the air sooner. Use sperm candles or tapers which burn sperm oil.



A DECORATIVE GATE.

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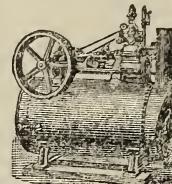
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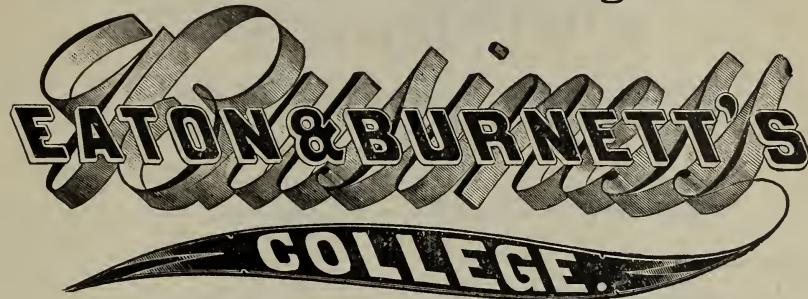
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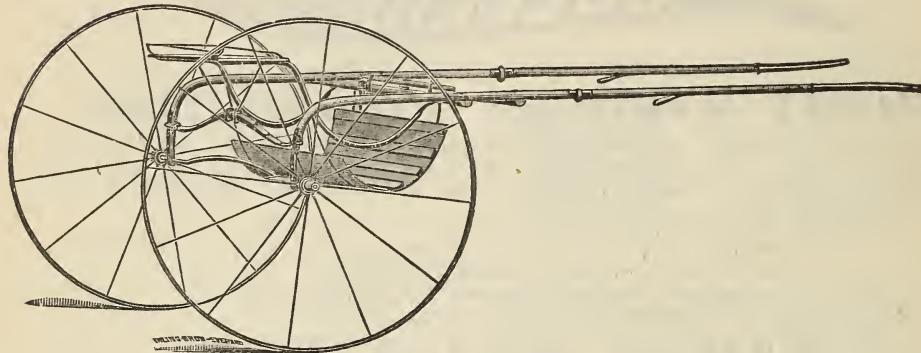
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